



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYOR HEEDS CITY ATTORNEY ADVICE OVER SUNROAD CENTRUM I BUILDING HEIGHT REDUCTION

City Attorney Questions Attorney General's Involvement in the Matter

San Diego, CA: Nine months after City Attorney Michael Aguirre advised Mayor Jerry Sanders to halt construction on the Sunroad Enterprises' 12-story Centrum I building, which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined to be an air navigation hazard to pilots flying in and out of Montgomery Field, the Mayor has agreed to issue the notice stopping construction on the entire building.

The Mayor also agreed to invoke Section 121.0312 of the San Diego Municipal Code and order Sunroad to restore the building to its lawful condition, which is no higher than 160 feet. In a letter to Sanders yesterday the City Attorney urged the Mayor to invoke the city statute.

"I applaud the Mayor's decision to finally take a leadership role and issue a stop work order effectively halting work by Sunroad Enterprises on the entire Centrum I building," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "His action demonstrates that he is now putting the public's safety first."

Regarding the Office of the State Attorney General (AG) wading into the Sunroad matter, Aguirre said the credibility of the AG's office has already been tainted by the issue. This occurred when the AG inserted itself into the criminal matter of the City Attorney's search warrant related to Sunroad executive Tom Story for alleged violations of the City of San Diego's lobbying ordinance. The AG advised San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne not to execute the search warrant, which was properly issued on March 21, 2007 by Superior Court Judge Woody Clarke.

Commenting in a March 30, 2007 *San Diego Union-Tribune* article on the advice the AG gave to Lansdowne, Chief Assistant Attorney General Dane Gillette cited, "concerns over the adequacy of the affidavit in support of the search warrant." However, after Judge Clarke publicly released the affidavit along with the search warrant no further questions about its adequacy were raised.

"For Assistant Attorney General Dane Gillette to now announce that the AG's office will 'investigate' the issue of corruption in the Sunroad matter only demonstrates that coordinated efforts are being made to limit the negative public relations fallout that the Sunroad issue has wrought," stated City Attorney Aguirre.

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“The investigation the AG should have conducted was who leaked the search warrant to the Mayor’s Office and the news media which I believe was an effort to thwart an ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the City Attorney’s Office,” Aguirre added.

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